

Data

1. **Is the County internally tracking positive COVID tests among the homeless population? If so, are there any clusters in any specific communities? Is the peak in COVID cases expected to be later in the homeless community compared to the general population?**

Information on COVID-19 positive cases and other statistics can be found [here](#). Data regarding the number of people who are homeless and have tested positive are periodically released during the County's COVID-19 press briefings, recognizing that data for people who are homeless may only reflect the location where the individual was tested. Per CDC, there is an expected delay in the reporting of COVID-19 cases among people who are homeless because the data has not been uniformly collected at a national level. In addition, the original populations at risk were people who traveled internationally, which did not often directly impact people who are homeless.

2. **Our dispatch center receives information from the County on the addresses for positive COVID-19 tests to flag in our system for first responder safety. Is there a system to track the homeless population that test positive so we know where to focus our efforts?**

If an individual tests positive, Public Health will initiate an investigation including identifying anyone with similar illnesses in close proximity with someone who has a confirmed positive test result.

3. **Can you provide more information on what we need to enter in HMIS regarding COVID-19 and clients? What is the vision for adding the COVID-19 screening tool into HMIS-Clarity? How does verbal consent work with adding in medical related data into the HMIS-Clarity system?**

Current HMIS users should continue previous practices and [collect bed information](#) including the new hotel/motel programs. The RTFH is also planning to add services in the new hotel/motel programs to track case management services. The [Universal Screening Tool](#) is in HMIS as well. All these can be found on the latest [HMIS updates](#) page of our website. The screening tool can be used by anyone, it does not have to be a Public Health Nurse who conducts the screening. All service providers can access and use the screening tool. No medical information should be shared during this process in order to uphold HIPAA compliance. The verbal consent is solely to get the individual in the HMIS system and does not apply to medical related data.

4. **In addition to the Location tab, should notes be entered in HMIS? For example, if someone has been identified as high risk and is only active at a day center or other program, is it reasonable to assume outreach teams will try to find them at those program locations? Would it be helpful for outreach workers to enter in HMIS not only the location we see a client in but also in the notes list any key areas that the client camps at or frequents in the event an agency in the trust network needs to find them?**

If the County is looking for a specific person, an alert will be posted in Clarity. When an outreach worker is engaging with a client they also need to add contact information for the individual into Clarity so that the person can be located as resources become available. Please continue to update any information

and provide as much detail as possible and keep contact information updated. In addition, friends of the individual and their contact information can be entered, with any notes to assist in locating someone.

5. Is Regional Task Force on Homeless (RTFH) pulling names from Clarity for those minimal number of beds they have in order for homeless clients to be seen by a service provider?

RTFH has used the data in HMIS to identify individuals who met the high-risk categories of being 65 and older, or with underlying health conditions. Enrolling someone in HMIS and continuing to update their information is critical. There is also new guidance and requirements from the State regarding HMIS data entry. RTFH will continue to communicate to the community and providers as guidance is issued.

Updates are also provided during the [Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting](#).

6. What is the guidance to "move people" into permanent housing if we can?

The same processes are in place to move people to permanent housing that were in place prior to the pandemic. Please ensure their information is entered into Clarity and the Coordinated Entry System, and work with housing navigators within your community.